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of the State Botanist of New York have come to hand. In the first, all the New York species of the sub-genus Lepiota of Agaricus, are described and systematically arranged, and in the second those of the subgenus Psalliota. Valuable notes and remarks upon various plants form a feature as heretofore of both reports, and quite a good number of new fungi are described. We only regret that it requires two years for these reports to go through the press.

ENTOMOLOGY.

RILEY'S ENTOMOLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1884.—The last report of the entomologist of the Department of Agriculture fills about 150 closely printed pages, with ten excellent plates and a full index. In practical as well as scientific value and in the variety of subjects treated, it is not inferior to its predecessors. The cabbage cut-worms are described at length and well illustrated, as well as a number of other insects destructive to this plant. Efforts have been made to introduce and colonize the European ichneumon parasite (*Apanteles glomeratus*) of the imported cabbage worm, and thus far the experiment has been successful.

The report contains also interesting life-histories of the American Cimbex, which has in Washington injured the willow, and lengthy notices are given of the Southern buffalo gnat, the angoumois grain moth, the cottony maple scale, the cranberry fruit worm, the larger wheat straw Isosoma, etc. Much attention is paid to the use of remedies.

The reports of the special agents comprise those of Mr. Hubbard on the rust of the orange, Professor Packard's on the causes of destruction of the evergreen trees of Northern New England and New York; Mr. Webster's on the insects affecting fall wheat; Mr. Smith's on those affecting the hop and cranberry; and Mr. Bruner's on the Rocky mountain locust, etc., in Nebraska. As a sample of the excellent illustrations is Pl. XVIII, which represents the cottony maple scale, with its eggs and larva (Fig. 1), the leaf with male scales (Fig. 2), the female scales (Fig. 3), and in Fig. 4 the adult females with the wooly egg-mass as seen late in the spring.

LATZEL'S MYRIOPODA OF AUSTRO-HUNGARIA.—This admirable work bears all the marks of faithful and exhaustive labor, whether we consider the text or plates. The descriptions of the orders, suborders, families, genera as well as species are given in detail, especially those of the orders and genera, and the work will thus be of special value to American students.

This part contains monographs of the Symphyla, Pauropoda. and Diplopoda. Personally the reviewer does not regard the Symphyla, represented by Scolopendrella, as genuine myriopods, but none the less would he cordially welcome the work which

Latzel has bestowed upon them, especially his figures of the mouth-parts.

For the Chilognatha Latzel adopts the term Diplopoda of Blainville and Gervais; the latter term is a better one[1] if it has priority, as it is shorter and more expressive, but the author does not give his reasons for using it in preference to the commoner name. However, he regards the Chilognatha as the second suborder of Diplopoda, proposing two new suborders, first the Pselaphognatha (for the Polyxenidæ), and third and lastly the Colobognatha for the Polyzonidæ, all the other diplopods being placed under the Chilognatha.

The Lysiopetalidæ, as limited by American authors, is dismembered, all except Lysiopetalum being referred to the family Chordeumidæ, whereas he should regard the two groups as sub-families of Newport's group Lysiopetalinæ, established in 1844. The American genera Scoterpes, and Zygonopus are considered as identical, a view we at first entertained, but afterwards abandoned, so great is the difference in the sixth pair of legs and the male genital armature. Trichopetalum is regarded as identical with Craspedosoma and perhaps partly with Chordeuma.

TROUESSART AND MEGNIN'S SARCOPTID MITES.—The first part of Trouessart's " Les sarcoptides plumicoles ou Analgésinés," embraces an account of Pterolichus and its allies, worked out with the aid of M. P. Megnin. These mites live on the plumage of birds, feeding upon the oily substance excreted by the skin, and not annoying the birds themselves; they are not then true parasites, but simply commensals. Several new genera and many new species are described, and the present part is illustrated by about twenty-five wood-cuts. About 150 species will be described. They have been taken from birds brought from different parts of the world, and it has been found that the same species of the subfamily lives on all species of birds belonging to one family. They are exposed to much variation, particularly *Fregana anatina.* The great variability of this species is readily explained by the parasite habits and by special condition of the medium, of food, habitat and climate. The work promises to be of much value to American students, for the subject here is almost unworked.

ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS.—The twelfth volume of the Transaction of the American Entomological Society opens with the second part of the late Dr. LeConte's Short studies of North American Coleoptera; and is followed by Dr. Horn's Study of some genera of Elateridæ; Mr. Williston's Notes on the North American Asilidæ (Part II); Mr. John B. Smith's Notes on the systematic position of some North American Lepidoptera, referring especially to the Zygænidæ. It seems to us that Mr. Smith in this essay fails to take a comprehensive view of the group; his families are sub-groups, and to base families wholly on the venation is carrying matters to an extreme; the venation in this family seems to us to be mainly useful in defining genera. Mr. Smith is led to throw Endryas out of the family, whereas by its larval, pupal and head and trunk characters it is a true Zygænida, the characters Smith uses are, we think, superficial. The two closing articles of the first number of the volume are by Dr. Horn, on the North American species of Cryptobium and Studies among the Meloidæ.——Interesting notes on oviposition in Agrion and insect migration appear in the *Entomologists' Monthly Magazine* for February.——Mr. T. L. Casey's Contributions to the descriptive and systematic Coleopterology of North America contains carefully prepared and lengthy descriptions of new genera and species of American beetles which will be of permanent value. We trust that the time for sub-lined descriptions of Coleoptera has gone by.——At a meeting of the Entomological Society of London, held Feb. 4, Mr. W. L. Distant exhibited a series of wings of Indian butterflies, showing the differences between broods of the same insect in the wet and dry seasons respectively, which had hitherto been generally regarded as distinct species.——Professor Packard desires specimens of Nola and of the Notodontians, with a view to preparing a revision of these groups of Bombycidæ.——L. R. Meyer Dür, a well known Swiss entomologist, died at Zurich, March 2d, aged 73. On November 28th, G. A. Keferstein died at Erfurt, aged 91, at the time of his death the oldest entomologist in Europe.

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[1] Die Myriopoden der Osterreichisch-Ungarischen Monarchie. Von Dr. Robert Latzel, Hälfte II. Die Symphylen, Paurodopen und Diplopoden. Wien, 1884. Alfred Hölder, 8vo., pp. 414, 16 Tafeln.

ZOÖLOGY.

Distribution of Color in the Animal Kingdom.—L. Camerano discusses this subject at length. Colors may be arranged in accordance with the frequency of their occurrence, thus: (1) Brown; (2) black; (3) yellow, grey and white; (4) red; (5) green; (6) blue; (7) violet. Black, brown and grey are more common in Vertebrata than in Arthropoda, while red and yellow are more generally met with in the lower forms. Green is very frequent in the lower forms, less so in Mollusca and still more rare in Vertebrata. Violet and blue are the colors most seldom met with, but they occur in all groups of the animal kingdom. White is irregularly distributed, but more characteristic of aquatic animals. The colors of animals bear a relation to the mediums in which they live; parasites are less varied in color than free-living animals. Aquatic animals are commonly more evenly and less brilliantly colored than land animals; pelagic animals, as might be predicted from their transparency, are not strikingly colored. Among birds the strongest flyers are most soberly tinted. Of inhabitants of the sea, those that live among Algæ are more vividly